WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method in an image processing apparatus that is capable of reading an image and processing the image in accordance with settings
5 information, comprising:

an identification step of identifying whether the read image is an image carrying settings information; and

a setting step of setting the settings
10 information, which is carried on the read image, if the read image has been identified as being an image carrying the settings information.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said identification step identifies whether the read image
15 is an image carrying settings information based upon a pre-registered format.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said identification step identifies whether the read image is a document carrying settings information based upon
20 information that has been added onto the read image at a prescribed position thereof.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said identification step identifies whether the read image is a document carrying settings information based upon
25 electronic watermark information that has been added onto the read image.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said

identification step identifies whether the read image is a document carrying settings information based upon information of a two-dimensional bar code that has been added onto the read image.

5   6.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising an image transmitting step of transmitting the read image;

said image transmitting step transmitting the read image in accordance with information, which is

10   included in the settings information, regarding a destination for transmitting the read image.

7.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising a mail transmitting step of transmitting e-mail;

15   said mail transmitting step transmitting e-mail in accordance with information, which is included in the settings information, regarding an e-mail transmission address.

8.   The method according to claim 1, further

20   comprising a display step of displaying the settings information.

9.   The method according to claim 8, wherein if the settings information carried on the read image has an deficiency, said display step displays the settings

25   item to which the deficiency pertains.

10.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising a voice output step of outputting the

setting information as voice.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein if the settings information carried on the read image has a deficiency, said voice output step outputs as voice a

5   settings item to which the deficiency pertains.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a correction step of correcting the settings information.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said

10   correction step corrects the settings information based upon a recognized voice input.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising an image synthesis step of combining the read image;

15   said image synthesis step performing image synthesis using an image for combination stated in the settings information.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a printout step of printing out settings

20   information, which has been used to process the image, after the image has been processed.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein settings information that has been used to process the image is stored previously one or a plurality of times in the

25   past.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the past settings information is selected based upon

settings information carried on the read image.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the selected past settings information is read out and new settings information is generated by using this

5 settings information that has been read out and settings information carried on the read image.

19. An image processing apparatus that is capable of reading an image and processing the image in accordance with settings information, comprising:

10 identification means for identifying whether the read image is a document carrying settings information; and

setting means for setting the settings information, which is carried on the read image, if

15 the read image has been identified as being a document carrying the settings information.

20. A control program for causing a computer to implement the image processing method set forth in claim 1.

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